

## CLAIMS

1. A polarization-maintaining photonic crystal fiber, comprising:

a core;

a clad layer surrounding the core, the clad layer including a large number of thin holes extending along the axis of the fiber, the thin holes being arranged in a crystalline formation; and

an overclad layer surrounding the clad layer,

wherein the overclad layer has a marking portion for indicating a polarization plane to be maintained.

2. The polarization-maintaining photonic crystal fiber of claim 1, wherein the marking portion is made of a material having a refractive index different from that of the material of the overclad layer.

3. The polarization-maintaining photonic crystal fiber of claim 1, wherein the marking portion is a hole extending along the axis of the fiber.